

**United States Naval Academy
Marathon Team
49th Annual Marine Corps Marathon
After Action Report**

Date: Saturday, October 26th, 2024, 0700 hours start time

Sunday, October 27th 2024, 0755 hours start time

Event: Marine Corps Marathon Volunteering and Race

Distance: 26.2 miles, 50k

Location: Arlington, VA

Weather: Sunny, 60°F

Participants: 30 MIDN Runners

10 MIDN Volunteers

1 Coach - Nathan Nudelman

2 MIDN Support



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With over 30,000 runners, the Marine Corps Marathon is one of the largest marathons in the world. Taking place in Arlington, VA, this race ventures through the historic landmarks of Washington D.C. such as the WWII Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the Jefferson Memorial with the finish at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial depicting the U.S. flag being raised at the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Throughout the weekend, the Marathon Team was present at several events pertaining to the Marine Corps Marathon. From volunteering at the Marine Corps Marathon Kids Race to attending the Mission Ready Lunch at Gaylord Convention Center to running the race, the team was immersed in the rich tradition of the “The People’s Marathon.”

Saturday, October 26th 2024

At 0630, volunteers mustered in the South Parking Lot of the U.S. Pentagon. When we first arrived, we had trouble finding the entrance due to closed roads from the race. However, with some help from the Pentagon Police, we were able to get an escort to the main parking lot at the North Wing. From there, we began helping set up for the 2024 Marine Corps Marathon Kids Race. The team started by setting up trash cans and preparing for the kids to show up. We also helped Sodexo package 2,000 sandwich bags and place them on tables for when runners crossed the finish line. We made an assembly line to help package them efficiently and then had members at tables ready to stack them neatly.

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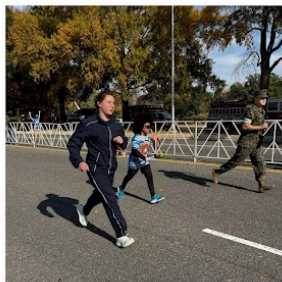
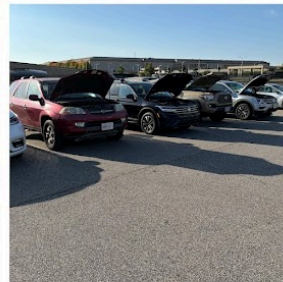


Once the kids began to race with waves starting at 0900, the team went over to the course and assisted there. They helped corral all runners at the start line, ensure the safety of all runners, and cheer them on as they got to the finish! Some of the kids struggled to finish, so the team helped them to the finish line and gave them great encouragement.



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After the Kids Race was completed, the team traveled over to Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center to attend the Mission Ready Lunch in the Maryland Ballroom. The team was treated to a great pasta meal and heard from several speakers. After the conclusion of the lunch, the team returned to Bancroft to rest up for the race the next day.



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Sunday, October 27th 2024

The team mustered at 0430 hours in Blue and Golds in the Midshipman Store Parking lot to drive to USNA. The drive to Fort Myers, VA took roughly an hour and the team mustered in the parking lot after arriving. Runners walked from the parking lot to Charity Village with the team gear. The race director, Lt.Col. Alex Hetherinton, USMC (Ret.), hosted the team in the Charity Village Tent in addition to providing a spot for our own personal team tent. Here, runners were able to stay warm and prepare for the race ahead. We shared the tent with the 20 Air Force runners who ran the race as well. They traveled from Colorado to run the race against the team. Both teams headed to the start line at 0715 after MIDN 1/C Joseph Chase led both teams in the traditional team breakdown by saying “26 - .2 - Go Navy - Beat Army.”



Midshipman volunteers dispersed to their assigned duty locations. We had a group help out at the Seeded Runner’s tent helping convenience runners at the race and organize their bags in numerical bib order for once they finished. We also had a Midshipman volunteering at the VIP tent helping check bags of guests at the tent.

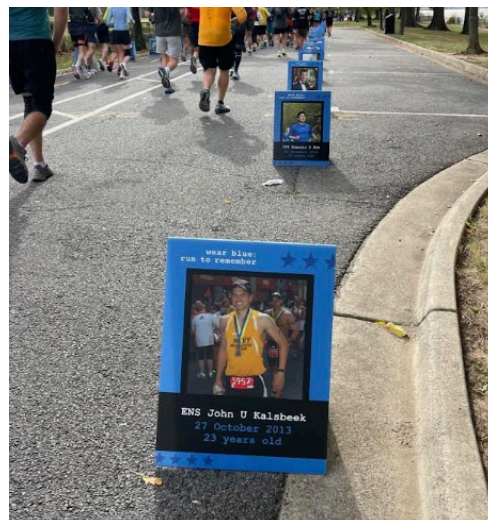
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At 0755 hours, the 49th Marine Corps Marathon began, and runners were off to start the 26.2 mile race. The temperature was in the low 40s at the start of the race with a sunny sky. The crowds were out in full support for all of the runners. Coach Nathan Nudelman, President Conrad Davis, Vice President Joseph Chase, and two other Air Force Cadets went to the start line to watch the start of the handwheel and wheelchair divisions followed by the runners.



At mile 12, runners pass through the “Wear Blue Mile” which is a tribute to service members who have passed. Runners all passed by 2012 Naval Academy Alumnus and former Marathon Team Member Ensign John Kalsbeek. His name is etched in the USNA Columbarium with his ashes placed inside.



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During the race, the support group met with many high-ranking officers in the VIP Tent. MIDN Chase and MIDN 1/C Conrad Davis reunited with Lt. Gen. George Flynn, USMC (Ret.) and USNA class of 1975. MIDN Chase met Lt. General Flynn last year while volunteering where he made sure to convince the volunteer MIDN to go Marine Corps. MIDN Chase came back this year happy to report that he put Marine Corps Ground as his first preference for service assignment.



The Civil Air Patrol Andrews Composite Squadron (DC033) joined the Service Academy tent as volunteers. The mission of the Civil Air Patrol is to help teach leadership and instill discipline in middle and high school students. Led by Lt Col Carlos Wilkinson, they assisted runners throughout their post-race recovery. A group of 5 cadets and 4 supervisors, under the direction of MIDN 3/C Grenier and MIDN 3/C Cederlof managed crowd control as team runners made their way back to the charity tents. The group was eager to provide help in any way possible, proving to be a vital piece of holding a high standard of both accountability and safety. Cadets were also directed towards joining the better route of service, the U.S. Navy.



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The team performed well and had several impressive performances today. The team had 27 runners compete today with 20 of them entered into the Service Academy race. From the male side, Andre Faigal (2:41) and Ryan Xu (2:54) both ran big PRs and reached the 2026 Boston Qualifying standard. The most impressive result from today was Anna Cherian running a 2:56 marathon and becoming the first female on the team to break the 3 hour mark in the team's 21 years. Her average pace was 6:44 minutes per mile. The All-Navy coach talked to Anna about potentially joining the team upon graduation and commissioning.

*PR denotes Personal Record, BQ denotes Boston Qualifying Time

Men	Name (Last, First)	PR	Finish Time	Notes (PR= Personal Record) (BQ= Boston Qualification)
1	Faigal, Andre	2:43	2:41:22	PR(2 Min), BQ, 59th Overall
2	McLeod, Cyrus	N/A	2:50:36	BQ, First Marathon, 140th Overall
3	Xu, Ryan	3:02	2:54:27	PR(8 Min), BQ, 192th Overall
4	Vivas Tejada, Abdon	2:58	2:58:57	BQ
5	Laskey, Peter	2:54	2:59:16	BQ
6	York, Forrest	3:26	3:06:06	PR(20 Min)
7	Merrill, AJ	2:46	3:07:00	
8	Frye, Henry	3:28	3:11:54	PR(17 Min)
9	Montes, Diego	3:20	3:15:47	PR(5 Min)
10	Breslin, Christopher	3:21	3:19:02	PR(2 Min)
11	Mullan, Daniel	2:49	3:20:28	
12	Kum, John	N/A	3:36:59	First Marathon
13	Stark, Christopher	3:32	3:37:51	

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Women	Name (Last, First)	PR	Finish Time	Notes (PR= Personal Record) (BQ= Boston Qualification)
1	Cherian, Anna	3:01	2:56:24	PR (5 min), BQ, 2nd in Age Group, 219th Overall
2	Edelman, Alexandra	3:24	3:25:58	BQ, 45th in Age Group
3	Weinzierl, Lindsay	3:29:44	3:27:53	PR(2 Min), BQ
4	Achenbach, Olivia	3:34	3:42:40	
5	Chan, Sophie	3:46	3:43:11	PR (3 min)
6	Bryant, Lauren	3:07	3:45:40	
7	Eater, Morgan	3:10	3:45:41	
8	Snell, Sailor	N/A	3:49:46	First Marathon
9	Todd, Anna	N/A	3:51:24	First Marathon
10	Kirwin, Amory	N/A	3:51:26	First Marathon
11	Jendrysik, Elizabeth	4:30	4:00:04	PR (30 min)
12	Occansey, Helena	3:21	4:01:37	
13	Patawaran, Aubrey	4:15	4:03:50	PR(12 Min)
14	Fernald, Maria	4:23	4:55:52	
15	Lucas, Wylie	3:01	DNF	DNF due to pre-existing injury still causing pain

50K	Name (Last, First)	PR	Finish Time	Notes
1	Lewis, Henry	N/A	4:22:42	First 50k
2	Mendiola Swearengin, Kayla	N/A	4:23:02	First 50k

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The team was able to meet with two Lieutenant Generals at the race who are both USNA Graduates from the class of 1988. Lt. General Stephen Sklenka was present at both the Kids Race along with the actual marathon. He talked with the team during the Kids Race, thanking us for volunteering on a Saturday and making a great impression for all of the kids running. We then presented him with a signed team poster after the race on Sunday. Lt. General Rock spoke with a few members on the team and wished us luck in our future endeavors.



Several former members of the Marathon Team were present at the race today. Class of 23 member Luke Termorshuizen ran as a member of the All-Navy Men's Marathon Team. He ran a time of 2:34:36 and placed 25th overall. Domani Occansej from the class of 2024 ran the race with his mom and sister as a family. His sister, Helena is the current team Manager and Domani served as the team's President last year. Major Dwayne Saunders from the class of 2014 also stopped by as he was cheering on a friend running the race.



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The Marathon Team raced against Cadets from the Air Force Academy. Last year, the race director, LtCol Hetherington, created a new division within the team races specifically for Service Academies competing against each other. The Naval Academy Marathon Team entered 5 teams: 2 Male teams and 3 Female teams.

The team gathered at the awards ceremony at 1215 hours. United States Naval Academy Female Team 3 placed first in the All Female Service Academy/ROTC Open. The team members were Aubrey Patawaran, Ally Edelman, Elizabeth Jendrysik, and Anna Todd. Unfortunately, the men's team lost to Air Force this year after winning last year. Both teams put on a great fight, and we look forward to racing against them next year!



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After the awards ceremony, MIDN 1/C Joseph Chase and MIDN 1/C Forest York met with Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Christopher Mahoney, and presented him with a 2024 team poster. MIDN Chase learned that General Mahoney and him grew up in towns adjacent to each other.



At 1400 hours, the team departed Charity Village and headed back to the parking lot to return home. Runners returned back to Bancroft Hall and recovered. The MO was completed.

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On behalf of the United States Naval Academy Marathon Team, we would like to thank Lt. Col. Alex Hetherington, USMC (Ret.) for all of his effort in bringing the team to the race this year. We would not be competing in this race without his dedication to bringing the Service Academies to The Marine Corps Marathon. The team raced the Marine Corps Marathon for the first time last year in 2023, and we were thrilled to return this year. We are looking forward to many more years to come!

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